

Anticipation of the ITE Law and Reconciliation of Its Forms Freedom of Expression through the E-Hights Website

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Abstract

Introduction to The Problem: Misinterpretation in the application of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (ITE) can reduce democracy and undermine law enforcement in Indonesia. The complexity of the problems related to the Electronic Information and Transaction Law requires solutions to prevent and prevent problems with the Electronic Information and Transaction Law.

Departing from the problems posed by the Electronic Information and Transaction Law, Indonesian still need a lot of work to overcome a degrading freedom of expression. We proposed the renewal by making a conceptual design and prototype, namely the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application to overcome those problems.

Purpose/Objective Study: This study is to examine the relationship between the constitution and laws and regulations governing freedom of expression through social media, as well as to examine how the use of a website-based application called E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) guarantees the implementation of this freedom. expression while minimizing violations of laws governing electronic information and transactions.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This research is normative legal research supported by secondary data in the form of primary and secondary legal materials. **Findings:** There are not a few problems in the implementation of the Electronic

Information and Transaction Law, the existence of a rubber article in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law which creates multiple interpretations in law



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enforcement in Indonesia. This multi-interpretation rubber article has an impact on people's freedom of expression. According to research by the Indonesian Judicial Research Institute, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law is a tool to silence freedom of expression. Thus, this can affect democracy in Indonesia, or it could be said that the Electronic Information and Transaction Law makes people afraid to voice their aspirations to the special government. Therefore, the authors offer a solution that is realized in a web-based application.

Paper Type: Research Article

Keywords: Freedom of Opinion; ITE Law; E-Hights

Introduction

Indonesia has a rule of law principle (Siallagan, 2016), meaning that the state has a role in regulating its people so that they do not act wildly. On the other hand, Indonesia is a democratic country that guarantees freedom of opinion as stated in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution, "Freedom to associate and assemble, express thoughts verbally, in writing and so on is regulated by law". In the context of human rights (HAM) and the mandate of the constitution, there will be an obligation to respect and respect the rights of others (Triwahyuningsih, 2018). So that the implementation of these rights needs to be regulated by what is called the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (ITE). The presence of Electronic Information and Transaction Law is necessary because national development is a continuous process that must always be responsive to various dynamics that occur in society (Mawaza & Khalil, 2020).

However, in reality, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law raises many problems. Opinions on the internet are often assessed as a result of reputation assessments; The Electronic Information and Transaction Law often appears as a weapon/tools to suppress freedom of expression (Hariyanta, 2021). CNN Indonesia confirmed that as much as 79.3 percent of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law cases used Article 27 Paragraph 3 regarding good names. In addition, as in several cases, including the case of Prita Mulyasari, Ervani Emy Handayani, Benny Handoko, and Saiful Mahdi who were convicted by a Banda Aceh District Court judge for "Alleged To Harm" defamation. to court in real terms and get a fine or imprisonment (Rizki, 2020).

Completion to court does not reduce Electronic Information and Transaction Law cases, especially in the current era of technological advances and the addition of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus Disease 19) outbreak which has implications for the rate of cases in Electronic Information and Transaction Law increasing, as quoted from Merdeka.com, said that the Executive Director of the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) Erasmus Napitupulu asked the police to "Stop Arresting" people who use their right to express opinions, the police are considered to often use irrelevant articles to arrest people who express opinions, which are considered insulting to the government and contain elements of ethnicity, religion, race, and Interclass.



According to the Security Research Institute for the Center for Communication & Information System Security (CISSReC), rubber articles on the Electronic Information and Transaction Law or multiple interpretations often report defamation, and articles about hoaxes actually cause problems for innocent people. This is very important due to freedom of expression is the most important right that basically cannot be replaced (Kurniawan, Mayasari, & Ismaya, 2021). Misinterpretation in the application of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law can reduce democracy and undermine law enforcement in Indonesia (Jahriyah, Kusuma, Qonitazzakiyah, & Fathomi, 2021). The complexity of the problems related to the Electronic Information and Transaction Law requires solutions to prevent and prevent problems with the Electronic Information and Transaction Law.

The descriptions of the cases above imply that it is now difficult to communicate the situation, especially when it is related to regime policies. Countries with Electronic Information and Transaction Law seem overly criminalized (Whalen, 2022). As a result of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law, there is a fear of expressing opinions (Siti, Sulfary, Putri, Firdaus, & Pradnyawan, 2021). Even though the internet should be a place for people to express opinions, especially since the Electronic Information and Transaction Law has become a legal umbrella, it turns out that this opinion remains a threat to social media users because they can be entangled in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (Wibowo, 2018).

Departing from the problems posed by the Electronic Information and Transaction Law, an elegant idea will be put forward to respond to the implementation and guarantee of the right to express opinions, based on statutory regulations that are not multi-interpreted. Therefore the solution that is packaged and poured into a website-based application is similar to a web portal called detik.com which only focuses on digital information and sells the latest news so there is no way to reduce the criminalization of freedom of expression. Then came the renewal by making a conceptual design and prototype, namely the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application.

The E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) website-based application anticipates the Electronic Information and Transaction Law and reconciles the embodiment of freedom of expression that brings renewal. A reform that is certainly practical, effective, economical, and fun for the people to remain critical of government policies or other problems that require resolution but still implement and enforce existing rules so that there is no such thing as opinion but contrary to norms, let alone harm others.

Methodology

Two types of research methods are applied in writing this article; the first by using quantitative research methods by conducting a survey through a questionnaire. Quantitative research was carried out by statistical analysis in the form of



percentages and numbers. Meanwhile, data analysis uses descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics are used to analyze data by describing the data that has been collected as it is without intending to make generally accepted conclusions or generalizations.

Then the second research method is through the normative juridical method which is carried out by analyzing problems based on laws and literature, including books, papers and articles related to the subject discussed, namely the Electronic Information and Transaction Law. This is done by collecting legal materials through literature studies based on primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal material includes laws and regulations, namely Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights and Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions Law, while secondary legal material includes legal literature outside of statutory regulations, such as books and journals in the field Electronic Information and Transaction Law.

Results and Discussion

Electronic Information and Transaction Law Cases

Quoting the opinion of Prof. Mr. EM Meyers in his book entitled "De Algemene Begrippen Van Het Burgerlijk Recht", law is interpreted as all rules that contain considerations of decency, aimed at human behavior in society and which serve as a guide for state entrepreneurs in carrying out their duties (Kansil & Kansil, 2011). This means that the law exists because there are considerations of decency or conscience and are realized by everyone. The opinion above is inversely proportional to the reality of the law itself, especially the presence of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law. The existence of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law is felt by the community to be unable to fulfill the legal objectives, because it is far from a sense of justice (Rachmawati & Taduri, 2021). This is evidenced by the description of the data below.

Completion to court does not reduce the Electronic Information and Transaction Law cases. Like the table below:

Table 1. ITE Law Cases

		Court	
June 30,	Prita	Supreme	Article 45 Paragraph
2011	Mulyasari	Court	(1) Jo Article 27
		Tangerang	Paragraph (3) UU ITE
		District Court	
•	,		2011 Mulyasari Court Tangerang



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No.1333/Pid.Sus	5	Benny	South Jakarta	Article 27 Paragraph
/2013	February	Handoko	District Court	3 in conjunction with
	2014			Article 45 paragraph
				(1) of the ITE Law
Number	January 5,	Ervani Emy	Bantul	Article 45 Paragraph
196/Pid.Sus/201	2015	Handayani	District Court	(1) Jo Article 27
4		Binti Saiman		Paragraph (3) UU ITE
63/Pid.Pra/2020	June 3,	Ravio Patra	South Jakarta	Article 28 Paragraph
	2020		District Court	(1) of the ITE Law

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Source: SAFEnet.com

The table above shows that from 2010 to 2020, the number of people caught in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law has not decreased but has even increased, as emphasized by Nurina, Manager of Amnesty International Indonesia, who explained that victims of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law continue to increase from year to year. In 2019, there were 24 verdicts against netizens. Then in 2020 it increased to 84 criminal cases. Furthermore, according to a previous study conducted by the Indonesia Judicial Research Society, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law was a tool used to suppress freedom of expression, as cases involving articles 27, 28, and 29 of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law had a conviction rate of 96.8% (744 cases) and an imprisonment rate of 88% from 2016 to February 2020 (676 cases) (IJRS, 2020).

In fact, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law was formulated essential to guarantee and maintain the implementation of freedom of expression (Notanubun, 2014). In more detail: first, take concrete steps to educate the nation's life as part of the global information society (education); second, develop trade and the national economy to improve people's welfare (economy); third, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services (e-government); and fourth provide as many opportunities as possible for everyone to advance their ideas and abilities in the field of responsible use and utilization of information. Which information technology, whether electronic or internet-based, is closely related to exercising the right to express oneself as guaranteed in article 28 E paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution. As a result, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law should actually provide a



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sense of security in order to maintain legal order in traffic human interaction in cyberspace, which has a direct or indirect impact on the real world.

Observing the implementation of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law, the meaning of law enforcement is ultimum remedium (sanctions have shifted to the target of punishment). As a result of Articles 27, 28 and 29 which do not expressly, definitively and limit any actions that are classified as insults, there is a risk that there will be no legal certainty (Rohmy, Suratman, & Nihayaty, 2021). Later, the articles in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law seemed to have been misused and became a weapon of criminalization in suppressing freedom of expression by authorities, legal officials, individuals or certain groups to interpret certain actions as insults or not (Ali, 2010). Whereas freedom is a logical consequence of human nature as a zoon politicon, which means that humans always want to associate, communicate, and express themselves (Dewi, 2021). Besides this, according to Article 1 of Law Number 9 of 1998 Concerning Freedom to Express Opinions in Public, "freedom of expression is the right of every citizen to express thoughts orally, in writing, and so on freely and responsibly in accordance with the provisions of the applicable laws and regulations". The same idea was advanced by Firman Floranta Adonara (2015) in his research, who claimed that the essence of freedom and freedom of expression is not absolute and limitless, but rather constrained and constrained by the same rights and freedoms that are owned by other people, the public, and the nation. Everyone also has the right to freedom of expression so long as it doesn't hurt other people.

The impression of suppression of freedom of expression also occurs during this pandemic. As an illustration, the Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network through its statement to the media highlighted a warning letter uploaded by the Ministry of Health (Kemenkes) account @kemenkesri addressed to Narasi TV journalist Aqwam Fiazmi Hanifan (owner of the Twitter account @aqfiazfan). The journalist tweeted in response to information from Al Jazeera, @AJEnglish: "This dog is more useful than our Minister of Health." This relates to the ability of a dog in Germany to detect people infected with Covid-19 with an accuracy rate of 94% (Ningsih, Amelia, Aisyah, Zahera, & Prasetya, 2021).

On that basis, Aqwam received a reprimand from the Head of the Communications and Public Services Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Widyawati. The Ministry of Health considers that these comments contain elements of insult and/or defamation against Terawan Agus Putranto (at that time serving as minister of health) as referred to in Article 27 paragraph (3) of the ITE Law (Safenet, 2020).

This comment is a criticism of the Minister of Health's performance in dealing with Covid-19. Submission of criticism is part of human rights, one of which is the right to freedom of opinion and expression guaranteed by the constitution (Olivia, 2020). Therefore, these comments are reasonable and must be protected to ensure the



maintenance of democracy in Indonesia. Instead of arguing about defamation, which leads to suppression of freedom of expression.

Once again, the articles in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law initially did not intend to suppress freedom of expression. The a quo articles are needed to control freedom of expression online and prevent the "rule of the jungle" from taking effect. The principle of freedom in human rights is the need for just freedom. The government must guarantee a clear legal umbrella and scope of boundaries in the corridors of justice so as not to cause many victims due to multiple interpretations of legal products (Rawls, 1985).

Based on the description above, there are not a few problems arising from the existence of Article 27 Paragraph (3) of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law which silences the freedom of expression of the Indonesian people through social media (Jamal & Natsif, 2020). There are not a few solutions that can be presented in addressing this, one of which is through the revision of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (Rahmawati, Muslichatun, & Marizal, Muhammad, 2021), but this has not been carried out by the government, therefore it is necessary to have an idea to anticipate the criminalization of Article 27 Paragraph (3) of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law which is considered as an article rubber, through the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) web-based application.

E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) is here to support the freedom of opinion of the Indonesian people without having to be afraid of dealing with the police, why is that, because the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application contains data on inappropriate words from the Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia (Kominfo RI), which is from this data will be used to filter the words to be uploaded on social media, if the words to be uploaded are indicated or fall into the category of inappropriate words, then the application will automatically get a response or the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application user will receive a notification inappropriate word. Thus, this can guarantee human rights in terms of freedom of expression or opinion, especially through the means of social media.

The presence of E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) is to guarantee the implementation of human rights to expression, let alone opinions, this is a form of a rule of law state. Discussing the rule of law, one of the principles that must be upheld is human rights and on the one hand, through the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application, it will support the implementation that the State of Indonesia is a democratic country, so that it is only natural for public criticism and suggestions for the government.

Explanation of Website-Based Applications

Based on the problem of suppression of freedom of expression, this is an urgent matter to be resolved. Previous research was conducted on an application called "Lapor" (Lyzara, 2019). The Lapor application is a social media-based aspiration and



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complaint facility developed by the Office of the Presidential Staff of the Republic of Indonesia, which of course has easy access and is integrated with 81 Ministries/Institutions, 5 Regional Governments, and 44 State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) in Indonesia and can be accessed through SMS, website or email, mobile app. Similar to the Lapor application in the research that will be developed, the conceptual design of the application prototype departs from the urgent need to guarantee and uphold freedom of expression. Similar to the Lapor application, the application made is also computer-based; more specifically, it is based on a website. In this study.

In addition, the E-Hights (Electronic Human Rights) application is similar to a web portal called detik.com which only focuses on digital information and sells the latest news, so there is no way to reduce the criminalization of freedom of expression. This application will provide updates with a keyword filter feature to find the right words to express opinions or opinions so that the criminalization of people in expressing opinions via the internet can be anticipated and reconciliation created for the realization of freedom of opinion. In addition, this feature is useful for providing guidelines and boundaries for people who give opinions and interact with each other but still implement and uphold existing rules so that there is no such thing as opinions that conflict with norms, let alone harm others (Richter, 2017).

The application that has been formulated will later be run by the government, especially the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, and will be integrated with the community as application users who have previously logged in to the application. Thus, the government can continue to guarantee and assist the public so that they are not afraid to express their opinions.

Conclusion

There are not a few problems in the implementation of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law, the existence of a rubber article in the Electronic Information and Transaction Law which creates multiple interpretations in law enforcement in Indonesia. This multi-interpretation rubber article has an impact on people's freedom of expression. According to research by the Indonesian Judicial Research Institute, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law is a tool to silence freedom of expression. From 2016 to February 2020, cases involving articles 27, 28 and 29 of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law showed a conviction rate of 96.8%, and there were 744 cases resulting in a prison sentence rate of 88% (676 cases). Of course this can affect democracy in Indonesia, or it could be said that the Electronic Information and Transaction Law makes people afraid to voice their aspirations to the special government. Therefore, the authors offer a solution that is realized in a web-based application.

By updating through the keyword filter feature to find the right words to express opinions or opinions so that the criminalization of public opinion via the internet can be anticipated, it is hoped that a website-based application called E-Hights (Electronic



Human Rights) can be a solution in order to guarantee freedom of expression. To ensure that there is no such thing as an opinion but norms are violated, especially those that harm other people, reconciliation is also needed to realize freedom of expression while maintaining the status quo. Third, this application must reduce the problem of multiple interpretations of the Electronic Information and Transaction Law which is often used to limit freedom of expression. Lastly, by integrating with the community through the use of this application.

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Declarations

Author contribution : Author 1: initiating research ideas, instrument construction,

drafting; data analysis; Author 2: analysis, review writing, revise writing; Author 3: added research ideas, data collection; authors 3 4 5: literature review, data collection,

data presentation, data analysis, and final draft.

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